

GOOD STORIES OF THE PRESENT DAY,

"Off with the saddle and shoot him!"

It was a cavalry scout of a score of men turning to camp after a rough ride of a hundred miles. Ten miles away a trooper's horse had fallen lame. Voice and spur had urged him on, but at last he could go no further. He must be abandoned. Aye, to prevent prolonging the enemy he must be shot.

"Poor Jim!" whispered the rider as he mounted.

That horse had carried him a thousand miles. They had gone hungry together. They shared the dangers of half a dozen battalions. They had stood picket in company, they

"Jim, old pard, I'd rather lose an arm!" declared the trooper, as he took the salute. The suffering man, relieved of his burden, turned his head to his master and uttered gratitude in a low whine.

"I've got to do it, old boy!" continued the trooper, as he drew his revolver and held it right hand, while he patted the neck of old "pard" with the left. "If they had a dime to take a bullet in the leg—if a good, square cut from a Johnny would save your leg, I'd send it to you. You take it!"

The last of the troop had passed on. Now was shutting down, and guerrillas lurked every bend of the road.

"Jim, old pard, it's orders, poor knave," the sergeant, who had stopped off the boy, looked down the road, now, while I send it let into your head. It's assassination—it's murder. You take it. Good-by, Jim. May the Lord forgive me!"

The horse fell like a log at the report of pistol and without doing more than a victim the trooper snatched up the accu-

[illegible]

horse outside the lines, but as he passed with them half a dozen carabines fired forth in darkness, and he fell forward and died with a groan. "That's the victor's horse," cried around. They understood that it was an animal of good horse, which had dragged himself to the front.

"Too bad, isn't it?" whispered the grim sergeant. "And every man felt that he was most guilty of murder."

A Happy Solution.

They had been using the village hay so for seven or eight years when a weigh man from the city came out to test them, and discovered that they were "off" about five pounds on the hundred. Confusion followed. Farmers who had heavy hogs and cattle and sheep had a weight taken, and found they figured up the loss of 100 pounds on every ton. The inspectors who had brought where others had a reputation for honesty, were themselves so much in error that they had been benighted by the scales. No particular credit was given to the men who seemed to have got ahead any faster than the others. What should be done was a stinging blow.

It was called. Everybody was there. There was an earnest determination to go to the bottom of the sea and repaired 'em, but the bottom of the sea. Somebody or other, so something of other, but each individual seemed to be torn apart by a resolution of sympathy for the family of the deceased would hardly be in or. Again, this is not a case wherein we can and political and a complete. Nothing can we petition the Legislature to re- our progress, nor have we just grounds for could not make a suggestion?" "I said, "long ten second- eminent citizen slowly arose and solemnly- said: "I would go out and take a drink. Which was adopted by a large majority."

Bravery.

Let child or man fall overboard and a dozen men are ready to spring after and save them. That is bravery, but it is bravery by impulse. Let human face appear at a window of a burning building and a dozen men risk their lives in the effort to extend the hand of rescue. That is bravery, but it is bravery by excitement. Let man but hear the cry of a fellow creature in distress and he will rush to deliver him at any cost. That is bravery, but it is the bravery of honor and chivalry. Let a man see a fellow creature in danger, escape cut off and he will rush into peril to rescue him. That is bravery, but it is the bravery of despair.

It is the battlefield which tests a man's courage. Let a man be in a burning building of wood. Half a mile away is another wood. Between the two is a meadow bare of the slightest growth. Let a man see a fellow creature in danger. As the line moves out into the clear sunlight every man will reason to himself: "I will not go. Before we are half way there he will be open or

[illegible]